NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

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THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

An innovation in this year's program designed to bring together the canner with a problem and the experts who have worked on this problem, proved the outstanding feature of the annual convention in Chicago the week of January 20.

Informal conferences held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons of the convention might well be described as clinics, where both canning and raw products problems were presented, diagnosed, and prescribed for by competent experts from the research staffs of the National Canners Association, the can companies, and Federal and state agricultural departments. The conferences were in themselves an experiment, and their outcome demonstrated beyond doubt not only that canners are eager to obtain and be guided by the best information available, but also that the industry has at its service and cooperating with it a body of experts who can make their work of immediate and practical benefit to the canner and grower of canners' crops.

Equal in interest to those in attendance at the convention was the series of addresses at the Monday afternoon joint session with the National Wholesale Grocers Association, when there was discussed from various points of view the problem of publicity and advertising for canned foods, and particularly the attitude of food-law enforcement officials and the medical profession towards health claims for foods.

The problem of simplification of containers was presented at each of the Section meetings, the basis for discussion being a report prepared by the Department of Commerce containing

recommendations as to the elimination of certain varieties of cans now used in small quantities. These recommendations were likewise brought before the meeting of the Conference Committee with Distributors, and the Committee adopted a resolution endorsing in principle the list of can sizes recommended by the Department of Commerce, and recommending that canners confer on the future elimination, if practical, of such of these sizes as appear superfluous.

The Board of Directors of the Association met on Saturday preceding the convention and at this meeting approved a tentative budget for 1930; fixed the dues at the same rate as in 1929; approved the application of canners of apple products for the formation of an Apple Products Section; authorized the Association to extend its legal defense of consumer complaints to include unjustified claims for injury alleged to have been caused by canned foods; and approved the report of the conference of technologists on processes for non-acid food products.

It was announced that the report of the conference on processes for non-acid foods as approved by the Board will be published in the near future in pamphlet form. This report was characterized at the meeting of the Board as one that, if followed by canners, will provide scientifically sound and commercially practical methods of safe-guarding canned products.

The Conference Committee, which had before it a letter from Chairman Fyfe of the Western Classification Committee stating that there has been a tendency recently for canned food shippers to use fiber shipping cases of a lower Mullen test than provided for in the specifications approved by the Conference Committee in 1926, unanimously reaffirmed its previous action, and recommended that Mr. Fyfe and the fiber box manufacturers be advised of this action.

The policy of the Farm Board as affecting the canning industry was discussed at the meeting of the Board, but no action was taken with reference to this policy. The Board likewise considered but deferred action on the question of amending the by-laws so as to admit to membership firms using the cold-pack process.

Statistics on the 1929 pack of beets and canned sauerkraut were announced at the Beet and Kraut Section meetings, respectively, and they are printed elsewhere in this issue of the Information Letter.

Copies of the annual address of President E. B. Cosgrove and the annual report of the Secretary and Treasurer, including the financial statement of the Association for the year just closed, are being mailed to all members of the Association.

C. E. Hume, of the G. W. Hume Company, San Francisco, Calif., was elected President of the Association for 1930 to succeed E. B. Cosgrove. F. A. Harding, of the William Underwood Company, Watertown, Mass., was elected First Vice-President to succeed Harry E. MacConaughey, and Leonard E. Wood was reelected Second Vice-President. A complete list of officers and directors elected and the standing committees appointed by President Hume for 1930 follows:

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Canning Tomato Crop Outlook

The agricultural outlook report of the U. S. Department of Agriculture states, as regards tomato production for canning:

"The production of tomatoes for market is closely associated with the production for canning and manufacturing purposes in many of the intermediate and the late states. The production taken by canners in 1929 required an acreage almost four times as large as the entire shipping acreage in these two groups of states. Although most of the canners' needs are covered by contract with growers, more or less extensive open market purchases of tomatoes are made by canners in some areas, particularly centering in New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. In such areas, it is customary for many of the growers to plan their shipping acreage, partially at least, upon the requirements of the local cannery as a possible outlet. There is a probabilty that, following the large canning tomato production of 1929, canners will afford the shipper a reduced outlet for open market stock in 1930.

"The 1929 production of tomatoes for canning and manufacturing purposes was nearly 50 per cent larger than the extremely short crop of 1928, and was the largest crop since 1925. Following the light pack of canned tomatoes in 1928, the larger pack this past year is not expected to result in an excessive holdover. Although in recent years, increasing fresh tomato supplies on the markets have served to retard the upward trend of

consumption of canned tomatoes, present canned tomato stocks are expected to be absorbed without difficulty. Since, in the production of tomatoes for canning, contract prices are a settled factor at the beginning of the season, growers of cannery tomatoes should give further attention to the more variable factors affecting their returns, such as yields and quality. Growers of Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania and other states where canners and growers have adopted a system of buying and selling on the basis of U. S. grades receive a substantial premium for a good grade of tomatoes, which provides an incentive for the production of better quality stock to the mutual advantage of canner and grower alike."

Pea Acreage Plans for 1930

Tentative plans for planting green peas for manufacture in 1930 indicate an acreage about one-tenth larger than that harvested in 1929, according to the reports received by the United States Department of Agriculture from 147 firms representing nearly one-half of last year's acreage. Canners in all the important producing States appear to be planning an increase over the acreage of last season, the increases ranging from 6 to 30 per cent.

In giving out this report, the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates states that it is by no means an estimate of the acreage that will actually be planted for the 1930 season, but is merely a summary of the pre-season plans of the firms reporting to the Department of Agriculture. These plans are necessarily subject to various changes prior to actual planting. It is felt, however, that this summary will help canners in the further planning and adjustment of their acreages for the coming season.

State	1927 *Acres*	1928 *Acres*	1929 *Acres*	Plans 1930 acreage as per cent of 1929 *Per Ct.*
Maine	720	1,100	1,130	115
New York	25,540	32,200	33,810	114
New Jersey	500	350	400	a 100
Pennsylvania	1,320	1,680	1,730	107
Ohio	2,990	4,020	4,380	110
Indiana	1,880	5,290	5,770	115
Illinois	6,830	6,740	11,010	110
Michigan	8,400	8,500	9,010	115
Wisconsin	80,000	101,000	111,000	108
Minnesota	6,980	7,920	12,670	130
Delaware	1,700	2,060	2,530	110
Maryland	8,000	10,500	10,500	106
Tennessee	....	1,400	1,400	91
Montana	....	3,500	4,200	90
Colorado	1,900	3,000	3,600	110
Utah	8,460	10,150	11,670	110
California	750	1,100	850	6
Other States	5,840	3,450	3,500	130
Total	163,810	205,960	229,490	110.5

a No report, assumed to be the same as last year.

The acreage of green peas for manufacture from 1918 to 1926, inclusive, has been as follows:

Year	Acres	Year	Acres
1918	186,620	1923	189,830
1919	124,020	1924	226,590
1920	136,520	1925	226,650
1921	123,560	1926	218,660
1922	158,010		

Estimate of Canning Asparagus Acreage

Asparagus acreage in the Delta District of California, the production of which will be taken by canners in 1930, is estimated by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates at 50,000 acres, as compared with 49,400 acres in 1929, 49,300 in 1928, 48,300 in 1927, 48,300 in 1926, and 34,800 in 1925.

Urges Farmers Not to Over-produce

"Blind production for an unknown demand is now the bane of agriculture," according to Secretary of Agriculture Hyde, who in an address broadcast from over 40 stations urged that each individual farmer intelligently plan his production.

"In the past, production of agricultural crops has time and again exceeded domestic needs," said Secretary Hyde. "The surplus has been compelled to compete for the markets of the world, there to further break the farm price. If we must meet the fierce, cheap labor competition of the world market, only those producers whose costs are low will be able at such prices to live.

"This is a year when it is particularly necessary for each producer to estimate his plantings and his markets, in view of the price outlook for each commodity, and to plan production accordingly. To obtain a higher level of prices than that which now prevails, it appears necessary to reduce rather than to increase 1930 production, especially the production of crops."

Death Claims Harry P. Strasbaugh

Harry P. Strasbaugh, President of the National Canners Association in 1921, and long active in both the canning industry and its trade organizations, succumbed to an attack of pneumonia at his home in Roland Park, Baltimore, on Monday, January 27. Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 29, with interment at the Churchville Presbyterian cemetery.

Born on his father's estate at Harford Furnace in 1867, Mr. Strasbaugh in his early years engaged in various enterprises. In 1900 he became associated with the canned foods brokerage

business and from that time on was connected with the canned food industry and trade. In 1911 he entered the canning field, and was engaged in the canning business until two or three years prior to his death, when he disposed of his various interests.

Throughout his life Mr. Strasbaugh was quite active in trade association work. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the Maryland Canners Association during the two years of its existence, and in 1918-19 he served as President of the Tri-State Packers Association. In 1920 he was elected Vice-President of the National Canners Association, and the following year became its President. During his term of office the canning industry—and the National Canners Association—passed through the most difficult period in the industry's history, that of the deflation following the World War, and Mr. Strasbaugh's rare financial ability and good judgment were tried, and proved.

During the years that followed his retirement from the presidency of the National Association, he always took an active interest in its activities, even after his practical retirement from the canning business.

In both his business and personal relations, Mr. Strasbaugh commanded the respect and enjoyed the friendship of a host of friends. To the entire industry the death of "Harry," as he was affectionately known, is a severe loss.

Beet Pack Increases Over 700,000 Cases

The pack of canned beets in 1929, as compiled by the National Canners Association and announced at the annual convention in Chicago, totaled 2,004,104 cases, expressed as No. 2's. This is an increase of 710,437 cases over the pack in 1928. The following table shows the pack, by states, for the last four years, in cases of 24 No. 2 cans:

States	1926 *Cases*	1927 *Cases*	1928 *Cases*	1929 *Cases*
California	80,101	13,380	30,175	45,372
Colorado	5,010	11,960	12,095	20,060
Indiana	(a)	(a)	(a)	34,644
Maryland	7,972	10,718	22,326	41,684
Michigan	69,869	57,877	57,623	79,763
New Jersey	66,511	23,886	50,390	176,956
New York	341,893	375,429	388,478	534,561
Ohio	25,626	8,784	8,127	32,394
Oklahoma	(a)	(a)	(a)	26,360
Oregon	80,997	82,968	107,134	132,980
Tennessee	(a)	(a)	(a)	42,691
Utah	6,221	10,362	17,137	22,897
Washington	9,781	23,910	32,494	85,329
Wisconsin	552,372	480,785	521,071	709,450
All other states	5,856	27,758	43,617	15,057
Total	1,233,662	1,129,767	1,293,667	2,004,194

(a) Included in "All other states."

Canned Kraut Pack in 1929

At the request of the Association, the Department of Commerce collected statistics on the 1929 pack of canned sauerkraut for announcement at the meeting of the Kraut Section during the convention in Chicago. According to the Department, the pack totaled 3,791,152 cases, exclusive of the output of 13 firms from which replies were not received. In its statement regarding the statistics the Department pointed out that of the 146 canners listed in the Directory of Canners, 79 furnished pack figures, 52 reported no pack, 2 were out of business or could not be reached by mail, and 13 made no reply. Accordingly, it is believed that the figures as compiled represent very nearly the total production. The pack by can sizes was as follows:

Can Size	Cases
No. 1	33,172
No. 95	105,286
No. 2	499,875
No. 2½	2,024,271
No. 3	533,252
No. 303	187,684
No. 10	362,519
Gallon cans	44,079
Miscellaneous	1,014
Total	3,791,152

Canned Milk Markets

Production of evaporated milk during December, although 5.6 per cent heavier than a year ago, did not show the full normal seasonal increase. While production did not show the usual seasonal increase, it nevertheless continues liberal when compared with other years.

Stocks of evaporated milk on January 1, 1930, were 39 per cent heavier than last year and the heaviest on record for the season. Total holdings on that date amounted to approximately 212,000,000 pounds, in comparison with 230,000,000 pounds a month earlier, 153,000,000 pounds a year ago, and a five-year average of 118,750,000 pounds. Reductions in stocks during December amounted to approximately 18,000,000 pounds, in comparison with a 14,000,000 pounds reduction during November, and a five-year average reduction of approximately 19,000,000 pounds. During December, 1928, only around 5,000,000 pounds of evaporated milk disappeared in trade channels in comparison with 18,000,000 pounds this year.

The condensed milk market failed to show any improvement during January, and at the close the tone was easy and unset-

tled. Demand continued slow, despite the fact that dealers' stocks were at a minimum at inventory time.

Production during December was about 4.5 per cent below that of a year ago, but 4.9 per cent heavier than that for November. The seasonal increase from November to December last year was 49.7 per cent in comparison with 4.9 per cent this year.

Stocks of condensed milk on January 1, 1930, were about 118 per cent heavier than a year ago, and the heaviest seasonal holdings on record.

Truck Crop Markets

The Agricultural Outlook for 1930 again warns farmers against the dangers of overplanting vegetables, according to the U. S. Market News Service, and cites the probability of continued large crops of fruit in seasons of favorable growing conditions.

Just at present, the market outlook is favorable for cabbage, strawberries, and tomatoes. Onions and lettuce do not appear to be in such a strong position, and there is a possibility of overdoing the plantings of potatoes and melons. Further reduction of the acreage of grapes seems advisable, especially in the West. In favorable seasons, the crops of tree fruits may continue to be somewhat burdensome for market requirements.

Adverse weather conditions were a factor in reducing the combined shipments of 23 fruits and vegetables to 13,200 cars during the week ended January 25, compared with 15,440 during the same week last year. About the only products to show heavier movement than during mid-January were oranges, carrots, cauliflower, onions, peas and sweet potatoes.

About 320 of the week's 450 cars of carrots originated in California. Practically all of the cauliflower supply also was from that state. Grapefruit shipments decreased to 700 cars, of which 500 came from Florida. Texas' forwardings of grapefruit dropped to 175 cars. About 50 arrived from Porto Rico.

Green pea arrivals from western Mexico increased to 270 cars, as against 120 during the same period last season. Oranges increased to a total of 1,325 cars, but were still only 60 per cent as heavy as last winter. California shipped 520 and Florida 800 cars of oranges.

Texas spinach output dropped to 140 cars and Virginia started only 55. Movement of spinach was just about half as heavy as a year ago. Florida originated 140 cars of string beans, or three times as many as a year ago. Movement of tomatoes from Florida increased to 55 cars; Mexico sent 90, and Cuba 50 carloads.

Cabbage shipments from southern Texas dropped to 50 cars and Florida originated only 110, so that the total of new stock was only about one-third that of the preceding week.

Strawberry shipments from Florida dropped suddenly to 60 cars for the week, or about half the quantity of the preceding seven days. Acreage for picking in 1930 is increased only 6 per cent over 1929 in the early states as a group, while decreases of 18 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively, are reported in the second-early and the intermediate groups, which will improve the market situation this year. A combined total of 184,000 acres in all states is 8 per cent less than last year and 11 per cent below the 1928 acreage.

Forwardings of apples decreased to 1,025 cars, of which 425 were from the West. Combined movement was only about half that of the same week last season. Forwardings from Washington decreased to 335 cars, and the Virginias shipped only 325. New York increased a little to 190 cars.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Jan. 19-25 1930	Jan. 12-18 1930	Jan. 20-26 1929	Total this season to Jan. 25	Total last season to Jan. 26	Total last season
Apples, total	1,022	1,307	1,865	81,666	108,049	127,530
Eastern states	595	643	925	42,522	54,754	62,708
Western states	427	664	880	39,344	53,295	64,822
Carrots:						
1930 season	377	353	237	2,677	2,260	1,124
1929 season	75	77	71	11,240	7,095	7,455
Cabbage:						
1930 season	169	486	573	1,496	1,500	42,549
1929 season	412	509	464	42,549	37,775	38,800
Cauliflower	315	241	424	4,865	5,432	9,889
Green peas:						
Domestic	10	2	10	469	440	5,162
Imports	267	249	121	1,201	364	1,351
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	539	770	781	2,333	2,911	32,366
Imports	17	11	11	93	64	218
Pears	41	44	26	19,976	23,985	24,439
Peppers:						
Domestic	18	11	36	182	96	3,244
Imports	21	24	57	141	198	586
Spinach	228	398	439	3,914	3,811	10,256
String beans	140	133	40	1,797	459	8,599
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	54	35	178	171	976	21,902
Imports	171	139	267	1,201	2,170	6,263

Tomato Products Imports in December

Imports of canned tomatoes in December were much smaller than during each of the preceding months, and also smaller than in December, 1928. The total for 1929, however, was over 82,000,000 pounds in excess of the receipts during the preceding year. Tomato paste imports for the year were about 4,000,000 pounds more than in 1929. The quantity and value of the imports, by months, for the two years are shown in the following

table compiled from the records of the Department of Commerce:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
1928	*Pounds*	*Value*	*Pounds*	*Value*
January	12,050,694	$666,405	2,316,596	$219,060
February	7,909,498	446,298	583,268	56,248
March	4,249,166	243,038	394,272	42,182
April	4,173,502	235,842	435,928	43,651
May	4,490,852	256,067	539,099	59,421
June	3,273,618	194,179	430,467	46,348
July	2,708,768	169,992	273,581	35,025
August	710,144	50,796	525,255	58,972
September	3,820,110	262,421	650,354	69,772
October	19,321,380	1,046,275	768,023	76,975
November	13,762,130	750,672	1,196,300	137,474
December	16,157,790	995,573	1,712,208	217,982
Total	92,732,091	5,198,472	9,817,456	1,034,029
1929				
January	11,564,855	691,913	836,680	117,092
February	10,070,274	605,850	831,920	116,933
March	8,982,128	525,188	775,996	113,261
April	7,314,409	446,300	866,977	126,149
May	19,092,992	979,655	431,038	57,788
June	9,567,189	567,610	648,921	93,899
July	8,107,230	998,480	518,560	73,786
August	1,401,196	73,088	448,586	49,624
September	24,614,699	1,209,553	1,248,253	141,186
October	43,882,515	2,080,052	2,819,662	329,961
November	30,176,965	1,366,583	2,895,601	354,119
December	12,042,349	565,940	2,614,656	268,547
Total	174,766,822	9,005,164	15,857,362	1,612,395

Canned Food Exports in December

Exports of canned foods in December, 1929, as compared with the same month of the preceding year, showed increases in all classes except fruits. The decline in fruits was due to smaller shipments of peaches and pears. The most notable increases were in canned meats and sardines. The figures for December, 1928 and 1929, as compiled by the Department of Commerce, follow:

	December, 1928		December, 1929	
Articles	*Pounds*	*Value*	*Pounds*	*Value*
Canned meats, total	743,326	$256,694	1,236,740	$406,833
Beef	109,707	35,813	202,544	61,505
Pork	413,836	130,540	771,811	258,383
Sausage	122,338	37,293	110,023	39,932
Other	97,405	32,048	151,490	27,013
Canned vegetables, total	7,321,387	750,999	8,464,202	855,073
Asparagus	1,590,189	267,114	2,292,588	350,470
Baked beans, and pork and beans	1,011,707	100,508	708,776	51,900
Corn	652,459	54,265	725,616	68,094
Peas	510,825	50,787	900,685	77,094
Soups	1,555,896	160,957	1,479,753	158,195
Tomatoes	295,987	19,908	667,629	44,900
Other	1,944,346	97,450	1,689,221	94,420
Condensed milk	2,691,898	439,514	3,100,045	461,354
Evaporated milk	4,920,709	300,283	5,338,148	516,664
Canned fruits, total	39,714,962	3,272,055	31,761,004	3,397,936
Apples and applesauce	2,847,771	147,376	2,540,920	127,583
Apricots	3,290,710	301,713	3,162,920	313,409
Berries	1,585,341	125,892	1,222,681	126,222
Cherries	188,121	30,566	185,230	32,560
Fruits for salad	.....	.....	3,992,637	490,680
Peaches	16,962,963	838,249	7,819,557	799,302
Pears	11,903,419	1,089,279	6,321,765	763,139
Pineapple	6,983,034	593,932	5,389,127	545,662
Prunes	215,678	22,139	146,817	18,351
Other	956,925	103,525	1,775,350	170,976
Salmon	5,196,428	761,058	5,594,600	1,093,158
Sardines	11,103,187	823,849	16,076,214	1,169,120

Cuban Vegetable Shipments

Of the 17,826,949 pounds of vegetables shipped to the American market during the period November 1 to January 15, tomatoes accounted for 13,050,075 pounds. Total shipments of all vegetables during the corresponding period last year were 11,992,071 pounds. The gain in tomato shipments has not kept pace with that in other vegetables, as tomatoes thus far have made up 73 per cent of this season's shipments as against 93 per cent during the same period of the 1928-29 season.

Reopening of Consolidated Southwestern Cases Asked

Reopening of the Interstate Commerce Commission's Seventh Supplemental Report on the Consolidated Southwestern Cases, insofar as the report prescribes rates on canned food products, is asked in a petition filed with the Commission by the Chicago Association of Commerce.

In its Seventh Supplemental Report, which followed a hearing upon a petition of the Chicago Association of Commerce contending that no different rates should be applied to articles when packed in glass than when packed in tin, and that it is impracticable to make a distinction between various canned food products upon the theory that some are "necessaries" and others are "luxuries," the Commission adopted the principle that the canned food articles involved should be divided into two groups, based upon the element of value. On those commodities the average value of which was considered to be less than about 9 cents per pound, the Commission decided that column 35 rates should be applied; while on those averaging higher in value, fifth class rates were prescribed. The railroads, pursuant to the decision of the Commission, published revised rates to become effective February 8, 1930. As indicated by the title of the case, the rates affected are those on shipments to southwestern territory.

The petition filed with the Commission holds that the Commission has erred in basing its conclusions upon erroneous finding of facts; that the articles involved have the same natural characteristics and are highly competitive; that the values of canned foods as placed in the records of the Commission are incomplete and not of a comparable nature; and that value should not be the controlling element in determining rates, and has not controlled in decisions of the Commission involving other commodities.

The petition asks for postponement of the effective date of its order, reopening of the proceedings for rehearing, and for reconsideration and modification of its previous order.

The list of commodities on which the Commission's order prescribed that column 35 rates be applied was published in the Information Letter for December 7. On canned food articles not embraced in this list class rates were held applicable.

Proposed Rate Changes in Southern Territory Suspended

Schedules filed by carriers proposing changes in rates on canned foods from, to, and between points in Southern territory have been suspended by the Interstate Commerce Commission until August 4, 1930, pending a hearing, the date of which will later be announced. The suspended schedules propose generally the cancellation of commodity rates on canned foods and the application in lieu thereof of seventh class rates, which would result in both increases and decreases in rates.

Army Asks Bids on Canned Foods

The Quartermaster Supply Officer of the Army at Brooklyn, N. Y., is asking for bids, to be opened February 11, on a wide variety of food products, including canned foods. The invitation for bids (No. 626-30-174) calls for delivery at various army posts on or before March 20. Copies of the schedule on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Quartermaster Supply Officer.

Navy Seeks Bids on Spinach

The Navy Department is asking for bids on 437,000 pounds of canned spinach, 30,000 pounds for delivery at Charlestown, Mass., 85,000 pounds at Brooklyn, N. Y., 25,000 pounds at Philadelphia, Pa., 72,000 pounds at Hampton Roads, Va., 150,000 pounds at Mare Island, Calif., and 75,000 pounds at Bremerton, Wash. Schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

European Tariffs and Regulations on Canned Foods

A second handbook in the series of tariff studies on agricultural products has been issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, this volume dealing with canned foods in Europe. The book gives the import tariffs and pure-food regulations, as well as a record of American exports for the past six years, for each of the countries of Europe, and was prepared by

Mr. R. S. Hollingshead and Miss Roberta P. Wakefield. The following extract from the handbook indicates the scope of the information it contains and its value to the American canned food exporter:

While the European duties on most American canned goods are thus in general not prohibitive, and almost nondiscriminatory, the variations in the treatment of the different canned foods, and of the same foods in different countries, renders it desirable for the American producer or exporter to take account of the precise duties in gaging the probable extent of a given market or in figuring the prices at which his products can be sold to the consumers in that country. Moreover, there are two additional types of foreign laws or regulations which affect the market possibilities for American canned foods abroad or at least determine the conditions under which they can be admitted. These are, first, the requirements of a sanitary nature, such as the permissibility (or allowable proportions) of certain preservatives, colors, and artificial sweetenings or flavors, the acceptibility of certain containers, and in some cases the requirement for prescribed sanitary certificates to accompany the shipment; and, second, the customs regulations with regard to the marking and labeling of containers, the types of packing desirable in view of the dutiable-weight basis, and the special documentation required on canned foods from the United States.

With regard to the sanitary requirements, canned and preserved food products put up in accordance with the standards of the United States food and drugs act and the comprehensive rules issued thereunder are usually of a grade and character sufficiently high to meet the fundamental requirements of most foreign countries. While American prepared foodstuffs therefore seldom encounter difficulties abroad on these grounds, there are enough minor exceptions or variations from the rule in this or that area—arising as often from administrative interpretation as from the terms of the laws themselves—to make familiarity with the pure-food regulations of each nation highly desirable before undertaking shipment, especially if there has been no earlier experience in the particular market. With regard to the customs aspects, the requirements regarding marking, packing, and documentation vary materially, and there is no alternative but the close study of these regulations in advance, if shipments are to go through without undue delay or annoyance to foreign customers, or additional expense in the form of fines upon the importer, and if the hazard of exclusion on the ground of nonconformity with the particular country's requirements is to be avoided.

The volume is obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., or from any one of the district offices of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, for 45 cents.

Frozen-Pack Method of Preserving Berries

Canners who heard the address by Dr. H. C. Diehl at the Fruit Section meeting during the annual convention, will be es-

pecially interested in Technical Bulletin No. 148, just published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, under the title "The Frozen-Pack Method of Preserving Berries in the Pacific Northwest." The bulletin, which was prepared by Dr. Diehl in cooperation with Messrs. J. R. Magness, C. R. Gross, and V. B. Bonney of the Department of Agriculture, gives the results of investigations carried on in 1924, 1925 and 1926. Dr. Diehl's address at the convention presented the results of other phases of the frozen-pack industry. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents each.

Fresh and Canned Fruit Industry in Porto Rico

The results of a general survey of the fresh and canned fruit industry of Porto Rico are presented in Trade Information Bulletin No. 669 just issued by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. At present grapefruit is the chief product of the Porto Rican canning industry, and the bulletin states that some believe Porto Rico offers an excellent field for the canning of other fruits as an adjunct to the fresh fruit industry. The production of vegetables for marketing during the winter months in the United States is yet an infant industry in Porto Rico, and the development of vegetable canning will naturally be dependent upon the growth of the vegetable-growing industry.

Annual Conference on European Corn-Borer Research

The annual conference of Federal and State administrative officials, scientists, and others, on the research program for the control or eradication of the European corn borer, will convene at the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., on February 11. The conference will be under the direction of Dr. A. F. Woods, director of the scientific work of the Department of Agriculture.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide for a complete coordination of the various corn-borer research projects, both Federal and State, to arrange for desirable replication of experiments and to prevent unnecessary duplication of experimental work.

Business Conditions

The volume of check payments during the week ended January 18 fell below those of either the previous week or the corresponding week of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The distribution of goods, as

reflected by freight-car loadings covering the latest reported week, continued below the corresponding period of last year.

The general index of wholesale prices was fractionally higher than during the previous week but was lower than a year ago.

Interest rates were easier, both time and call-money rates being lower than for either the previous week or the corresponding week of last year. Bank loans and discounts were also slightly smaller in volume than during the previous week but were larger than for the corresponding week of 1929.

Business failures were fewer than during the previous week but somewhat more numerous than during the corresponding week of last year.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended January 18	847,353	290,642	232,027	324,484
Preceding week	868,191	297,128	227,795	338,280
Corresponding week, 1929	931,861	317,128	239,160	375,573
Corresponding week, 1928	884,683	309,810	243,219	331,654

Retail Trade in December

Department store sales for December were about 2½ per cent smaller than in the corresponding month a year ago according to reports to the Federal reserve system from 620 stores located in all Federal reserve districts. For the entire year 1929, sales of 523 stores in 229 cities were about 2 per cent larger than for 1928.

Inventories of the reporting department stores at the end of 1929 were in the aggregate at about the same level as a year ago. Decreases were reported for eight Federal reserve districts, increases for the Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco districts, and little change for the New York district.

Fig Canning Being Considered in South Africa

The ease with which figs are cultivated in many parts of the Union and the apparently successful introduction of canned figs on the English market by American packers has served to direct the attention of fig growers in South Africa to the possibilities of expansion along such lines, according to the American Trade Commissioner's office at Johannesburg.

Relatively large quantities of fresh figs are being sold to established jam factories in the Union where they are made up into fig jam or comfit. It has been pointed out, however, that England, the market they wish to cultivate especially, does not

favor this product on account of its extreme sweetness, and that American canned figs have found a limited but growing sale.

Although the Union produces a number of varieties of figs, including the white Adriatic and Calimyrna, as well as a number of local varieties, there is some concern over the supplies of proper types for canning. One grower states that "investigation has revealed a weakness in regard to this enterprise being placed on a commercial footing, as the general run of the figs grown in South Africa are unsuitable. To follow California's example it would be necessary to obtain and to cultivate extensively the variety of fig 'Kadota,' that alone seems to be a satisfactory subject for canning." (Apparently the grower either overlooked the fact or does not know that Calimyrnas are being canned in California.)

Singapore Sardine Market

Sardine prices declined throughout the past year, according to cabled information received in the Department of Commerce from the American Trade Commissioner at Singapore. Imports during 1929 increased 20 per cent over 1928 but were much smaller than during previous years. Arrivals during December were unusually heavy. Stocks are not oppressive. A moderate increase in business is expected.